[24th March 1960

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, the Government have formed the view that the control by the Collector of the district would be better, and, therefore, they have delegated the power to the Collectors. I do not know how the hon. Member feels that delegation of the authority to the Welfare Officer would improve the situation.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, in view of the fact that though the need is felt by the Welfare Officer, it takes some months to get sanction and that pupils have to go without additional teachers in schools, cannot the Government think of exploring a way for sanctioning the posts and authorising the officer in charge of the welfare schools to sanction these posts?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The Collector is the person in the headquarters, and it would be very easy for the Welfare Officer to meet him and get his requirements sanctioned.

Suicide in the hospital at Sivaganga

* 150 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM (on behalf of Sri V. V. Ramaswami) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any occurrence of suicide in the hospital at Sivaganga has been brought to the notice of the Government;

(*b*) if so, the circumstances under which it happened; and

(*c*) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent such occurrences in future?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) & (*b*) A patient admitted into the hospital for treatment for pleural effusion of the right side with congestion failure and suspected tuberculosis committed suicide, since he could not bear his sufferings.

(*c*) All the members of the staff of the hospital have been instructed to be vigilant to prevent such occurrences in future.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Sir, has there been any such occurrence at all anywhere else in the State hitherto, I mean during the last two or three years, or is this a unique instance?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Rather a rambling question, Sir. (Laughter.) I do not know.

Primary Health Centres

* 151 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Primary Health Centres opened in each district and the number of centres in which the post of Medical Officer is vacant as on 1st November 1958; and